

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02657 01 OF 02 211505Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6211
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02657

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE, SENV, XG
SUBJECT: ECE - FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON POSSIBLE HIGH-
LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT

REF: STATE 21462

SUMMARY: ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK HAS OFFERED
HIS IDEAS ON POSSIBLE COMPROMISE ON DECISION THAT ECE
COMMISSION MUST TAKE ON HOLDING OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
ON ENVIRONMENT (HLM). HE PUTS GREATER STRESS ON NEED FOR
EARLY MEETING THAN ON SOUND PREPARATIONS, AND CONTINUED
TO PRESS FOR THREE-ITEM AGENDA. AT WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING
NORDICS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH TYPE OF AGREEMENT ON
TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION STANOVNIK'S REPORT SUGGESTS
BE ADOPTED AT HLM. END SUMMARY.

1. AT SUBSCRIPTION LUNCHEON OF ALL ECE MEMBERS FEB. 14,
STANOVNIK OUTLINED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A REASONABLE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02657 01 OF 02 211505Z

OUTCOME OF 33RD COMMISSION SESSION AS REGARDS HOLDING A
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT. STANOVNIK'S
"COMPROMISE PROPOSAL" CONTAINED FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:
AGENDA SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, IDEALLY THREE,
GIVEN THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS SUCH A COMPLEX TOPIC.
STANOVNIK REPEATED IDEA THAT MEETING SHOULD COVER AIR,
LAND, AND WATER (I.E., TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION,

LOW-WASTE/NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY, AND MARINE POLLUTION).
SECONDLY, OBJECTIVES OF MEETING SHOULD BE "RELATIVELY
MODEST BUT VERY CONCRETE". (IF OBJECTIVES SET TOO HIGH,
PREPARATIONS MIGHT TAKE TOO LONG.) THE SENIOR ADVISERS
ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SHOULD BE THE PREPARATORY BODY AS IT
IS VERY EXPERIENCED AND CAN START RIGHT AWAY. DECISION
TO HOLD MEETING MUST ALSO INCLUDE DECISION ON TIMING AND
SATISFACTORY PREPARATORY WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN
ONE YEAR. QUESTION OF FOLLOW-UP WORK CAN BE ADDRESSED
LATER, AS LONG AS IT IS CLEAR THAT AS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ECE, FOLLOW-UP WILL BE ALSO.

2. IN RESPONSE TO STANOVNIK STATEMENT, NORWEGIAN AMBASSA-
DOR SAID HE CAN NOT AGREE TO RELATIVELY MODEST OBJECTIVE
FOR HLM AS ENVIRONMENT IS A VERY URGENT AND PRESSING
PROBLEM FOR THE REGION. HUNGARY, ON BEHALF OF SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES, STRESSED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SEVERAL AGENDA
TOPICS. BOTH HUNGARY AND USSR SAID THEY COULD ACCEPT
SAEP AS PREPARATORY BODY.

3. ECE SECRETARIAT (STILLMAN) CONFIRMED AFTER LUNCHEON
THAT BY "MODEST OBJECTIVE" STANOVNIK MEANT THAT IN ORDER
TO REACH ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WITH EAST ON TIMING, HLM
MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD BEFORE NEXT COMMISSION
SESSION AND RESULTS OF MEETING THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TO BE
LESS THAN THEY MIGHT OTHERWISE BE. PRIVATELY STANOVNIK
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02657 01 OF 02 211505Z

IS SAYING THAT FOR TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, IT MIGHT
NOT BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE A CONVENTION, BUT SOMETHING
LESS THAN THAT. AT WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING FEB. 15,
STANOVNIK'S PROPOSAL WAS IGNORED AND WE BELIEVE THIS IS
THE BEST TACT SINCE IT CONTAINS LITTLE THAT WE CAN SEE OF
VALUE TO THE WEST.

4. ON INCLUSION BY USSR OF BREZHNEV PROPOSALS IN
PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF COMMISSION, STANOVNIK POINTED OUT
THAT UNDER RULES OF PROCEDURE, ANY COUNTRY CAN PUT ITEM
ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND THAT DECISION MUST BE TAKEN BY
BUREAU MEETING APRIL 10 ON WHERE TO INCLUDE ITEM ON
AGENDA. IT IS STILL EARLY TO SAY IF THERE IS SENTIMENT
IN WESTERN CAUCUS FOR RESISTING INCLUSION OF ITEM ON FINAL
AGENDA. SOVIET UNION REP AT LUNCHEON JUSTIFIED ADDING
SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM ON BREZHNEV PROPOSALS BY ARGUING
THAT IT ENABLED DELEGATES TO CONCENTRATE MORE CLOSELY ON
PROPOSALS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OTHER WORK AND THAT USSR
WANTS DISCUSSION (AND PROGRESS) AT COMMISSION SESSION ON
ALL THREE PROPOSED CONFERENCES AND NOT JUST ONE OF THEM.
TWICE IN HIS STATEMENT SOVIET REP MADE IT CLEAR THAT
ENERGY CONFERENCE TOOK PRIORITY OVER TRANSPORT.

5. AT WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING NORDIC (EXCEPT DENMARK)
ANNOUNCED THAT AN AGREEMENT ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION
ALONG LINES SKETCHED OUT BY STANOVNIK IN PARA 83 OF
E/ECE/936 WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING
NORWEGIAN REP ADDED THAT THEY SEE VERY LITTLE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN WHAT THEY PROPOSED AT SEPTEMBER SAEP MEETING (SEE
PARA 11 OF E/ECE/936) AND WHAT STANOVNIK HAS PROPOSED
IN PARA 83; THEREFORE, THEY DO NOT SHARE OUR VIEW THAT
THEIR SEPTEMBER PROPOSAL AND OUR PROPOSAL MADE AT THE
SEPTEMBER CONSULTATION ARE A BETTER BASIS FOR AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02657 02 OF 02 211507Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02657

6. WESTERN CAUCUS ALSO HELD INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION ON
NATURE OF DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT 33RD COMMISSION SESSION
ON HLM. ITALY NOTED THAT THEY COULD ONLY ACCEPT
AT MOST A CONDITIONAL DECISION ON HOLDING THE MEETING
WITH A FIRM DATE OR A CONDITIONAL DATE, BUT A FIRM
DECISION. THEY DOUBTED USSR WOULD ACCEPT A DECISION
THAT WAS BOTH CONDITIONAL AND CONTAINED NO FIXED DATE.
NORWAY EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR FIRM DECISION WITH
FLEXIBLE DATE. OTHERS STRESSED THAT THERE MUST BE SAFE-
GUARDS IN THE DECISION SO THAT WE WOULD NOT BE LOCKED
INTO HOLDING A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN CASE THE PREPARATORY
PROCESS IS NOT SATISFACTORY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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